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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Summary No. 24

August 15, 1942

CONNECTICUT (August 12). -- Organization of Connecticut Volunteers nearing completion in every county; two-thirds completed in small towns and villages. One volunteer for each 10 families is typical. Action to meet local problems emphasized. Example in Watertown where Volunteers established Saturday market on community house parking lot, where farmers and gardeners bring vegetables and fruits to sell to housewives who are canning. In Morris, Volunteer committee made up neighborhood pool of orders for electrical repair work.

In garden and canning inventory, 9,936 of State's 10,706 rural families were interviewed; coverage of 93 percent. 55 percent of families growing more produce this year than last; 11 percent have gardens this year who had none last year. Families interviewed plan to can total of 967,994 quarts of tomatoes, carrots, greens, snap beans, fruit, kraut, and squash. Results of inventory will be printed as leaflet.

Five more folders in Wartime Living Series published: Canning in Wartime, ABC's of Inflation, Controlling the Cost of Living, Fuelwood Facts, The Home Medicine Chest. Series in increasing demand and bringing favorable comment. Folders, briefly presented and dressed up with color and illustrations, found useful to county staffs.

In Fairfield County, extension agent ordered carload of yearling ewes for distribution to farmers to boost wartime meat production. Interest aroused required ordering second carload.

Extension travel in State cut about 50 percent below normal mileage.

DELAWARE (August 1). -- Neighborhood leader organization completed under name of Extension Service Volunteers; total of 663 neighborhoods and 1,039 leaders; 390 neighborhoods have both men and women leaders.

Migratory labor camp established in cooperation with State Board of Agriculture, U. S. Employment Service, and FSA; accommodations for 500 workers. Tremendous labor shortage throughout tomato harvest areas and farm labor being offered high wages by industry. Large percentage of waste feared in perishable vegetable crop areas. Farmers willing to contribute funds for transportation of labor within reasonable radius.

4-H Clubs being divided to reduce transportation and conform with neighborhood system. Club members salvaging rubber, paper, and metal, and conducting farm fire-prevention program.

Special printing fund established for preparation of wartime extension folders. News releases and radio programs prepared for Victory Food Specials, farm fire prevention, wartime food production.

Assisting communities in plans for harvest shows. Extension exhibit prepared for shows.

A wartime directory for farm families in Sussex County has been prepared in co-operation with BAE, and will be sent to all farm families; if it proves valuable similar directories will be prepared for other counties.

GEORGIA (August 1). -- In Food-for-Victory program, main effort is toward processing of food products. More canning plants in State than ever before; farm families doing more home canning and preserving. County agents report 342 community canneries and 77 county-wide canneries; of these, agents helped to establish 206. Training schools, demonstrations, and short courses held to train leaders in food processing.

Program continuing for salvage of rubber, scrap iron, and waste fats. Victory Volunteers distributed 200,000 copies WPB leaflet on fats salvage to farm people.

Farm labor shortage still major problem; questionable as to how prospective large crops will be harvested. County farm labor committees set up by extension agents cooperate with U. S. Employment Service in recruiting labor, keep informed on local situations, help farmers in exchanging labor with neighbors. School pupils helping in peach harvest. In tobacco belt farmers successfully exchanging work days with neighbors. Committees encouraging registration of available workers and of farmers who need help. Small towns called on to recruit farm labor and to release domestic help during harvest season.

Truck survey nearing completion; providing information as to number, ownership, location, capacity, condition, and availability of trucks. Educational program to get farmers to pool transportation. Most truck owners conserving use and co-operating with neighbors in taking products to market.

County extension workers and neighborhood leaders doing educational work in selling war bonds. 4-H and home demonstration clubs buying bonds and stamps, as clubs and individually.

Community and neighborhood leader organization completed in many counties and being used effectively. In all other counties major work of organization has been done; now concentrating on training of leaders. Letter of commendation and card of recognition being sent to each Victory Volunteer. Material ready for leaders' use in fall and winter soil-building program.

Negro extension workers have already selected and are using 3,000 negro neighborhood leaders. Meetings held on food production and preservation and family health problems. In one county negro farm families canned 107,000 containers of fruits and vegetables by end of July. Where negroes do not have their own canning plants community and county plant facilities are made available to them. Negro farm families highly responsive in interest and activity to war programs. As result of Food-for-Victory program, negroes in State have almost doubled their gardens and achieved marked expansion in farm, poultry, and cattle production. Show much interest in nutrition and better health program.

KENTUCKY (August 15). -- Extension specialists have given food preservation demonstrations in 115 of the 120 counties in State, training 20 to 50 leaders at each

demonstration. These leaders will give demonstrations in their respective counties. Home demonstration agents 60 counties gave 15 to 30 demonstrations each in canning, drying, and storing home-produced vegetables, fruits, and meats.

Home garden acreage at least 15 percent over last year's. Gardens are larger, with 15 percent more varieties of vegetables.

Kentucky will meet its quota of 250,000 shearling lamb pelts for aviators' clothes. Meetings held 36 counties to encourage farmers to shear late lambs so that their wool will be proper length when lambs are sold in fall or early winter.

Program of fire prevention and control launched through neighborhood leaders. There is a State chairman, and community and neighborhood chairmen and leaders to carry out State-wide program for elimination fire hazards. Leaders will make personal contact with families, distribute literature, and hold meetings. Each family will receive a check sheet as a guide and record. Cooperating agencies include State Fire Underwriters.

Demonstrations continuing in use small trailer threshing machine developed by TVA. Twenty of these machines have been purchased in Kentucky to use in threshing small acreages grain, grasses, and legumes. Plan proving especially valuable in the saving of home-grown grass and legume seeds.

Now in midst series demonstrations in removal of staminate plants in the seed hemp program, with 88 county demonstrations being held to show farmers how the nonseed plants are removed from hemp fields. Demonstrations in cutting and threshing hemp for seed to be held later in season. Figures available show 8,074 farmers in 117 counties growing 35,971 acres seed hemp.

4-H Club members 90 counties collected 978,195 pounds scrap rubber. Each county has a 4-H Club salvage committee, the chairman of which is a member of the county's general salvage committee. Through 4-H members it has been possible to reach practically every farm home in State in search of scrap metal, rubber, and other salvage useful in war effort.

MAINE (August 15). -- Active in educational work on Victory Gardens, emergency canning centers, canning campaign, 4-H food production, U.S.D.A. State War Board work, selective service deferments for farm laborers, scrap collection campaigns, and other war activities. Guide for neighborhood leaders published, also circulars on Canning by the Boiling-water Bath Method, Home Canning Guide, and Home Storage of Vegetables for Winter Use.

Great increase in home gardens bringing more requests for help in insect and disease control. Farmers aided in fighting serious Mexican bean beetle outbreak; given spray recommendations for potato blight.

To prevent wartime shortage of chemical nitrogen for fertilizers, farmers encouraged to use more lime, plant more legumes, and improve methods of storing and utilizing barnyard manure.

Extension agents sending all questions on priorities to farm-management specialist for clearance with local WPB representative. Information of State-wide application goes to all agents; otherwise only to counties concerned.

Agents working with U. S. Employment Service on farm labor problem. Meetings to make harvest plans held in three counties with representatives of canning companies.

Poultrymen urged to reach highest egg production possible. Information given on Green Feed for Layers, and Grass Silage. Poultrymen asked to save the thousands of aluminum leg bands used in pullorum testing. 4-H poultry handbook revised to include latest management methods. Community poultry project leaders will receive special handbook of extension wartime poultry program.

NORTH DAKOTA (August 1). -- About 10,000 neighborhood leaders active in State. Reached almost every farm family in educational program on cost-of-living control; distributed leaflet emphasizing major points. Extension workers encouraged by spirit and cooperativeness of leaders. Weekly war information letter established to keep leaders informed on war problems; localized and mailed by counties.

Food preservation -- freezing, drying, canning, pickling -- keynote of Victory Garden program in every county. Victory Garden committees, homemakers' clubs, and other groups used in drive. New extension publications on canning and freezing distributed widely. Gardeners given information on insect and disease control.

Scrap-iron salvage surveys completed in most counties, providing information on quantity of iron available on farms as basis for further salvage efforts. Drive for kitchen fats salvage launched.

Grain storage educational campaign conducted for several months, emphasizing construction and rebuilding of permanent storage space. State-wide publicity on problem given through neighborhood leaders, press, radio, meetings, letters. Grain storage circular distributed to 40,000 farms.

Farm labor shortage handled effectively by neighborhood leaders, emphasizing use of labor of all able persons, efficient use of equipment, cooperation between farms, extra working time.

Food-for-Freedom educational programs carried on relating to livestock management, feeding, efficient production practices, disease and insect control. Attention given to feeding stock to heavier weights, avoidance of market and transportation difficulties, better feeding to increase dairy and poultry production. Cooperation of livestock interests and producers enlisted in sheep sanitation drive. Circulars issued on sheep, hog and beef production, and silage.

OREGON (August 1). -- Entire State and county extension staffs engaged in organizing neighborhood leader system and training leaders. During July central staff members met community leaders in 34 of 36 counties in State; trained 558 community leaders and used 2,000 neighborhood leaders. Concentrating on inflation control. Distributed State bulletins on Voluntary Community and Neighborhood Leadership in Oregon, and The Nation's Program To Control Inflation. Next jobs for leaders will be farm transportation, enrichment of flour and bread, salvage of fats and metals.

County farm transportation committees being set up in all counties. County agents serve as secretaries and their offices as headquarters. Purposes, to advise with ODT and ICC on policies affecting farm transportation; develop cooperative programs to relieve transportation difficulties and conserve tires and vehicles and initiate educational and action programs among farm people.

Estimate completed on feasible production of farm commodities needed during war. Attainment of dairy production goals is most acute problem because of labor shortage. Goals can be reached only if feed supplies, particularly concentrates, are obtained elsewhere, and if enough capable labor is found.

Programs concerning wartime needs of family occupying full time of home demonstration agents and specialists. Meetings held on phases of war work in **nutrition**, clothing, home management, recreation, family relationships, Food for Freedom. Home management and clothing projects include mattress and comforter construction, care of hands, sewing-machine clinic, dress fitting, 4-H clothing.

4-H Clubs emphasizing food preservation, particularly canning, and Victory Gardens. In 20 counties 1,159 club members have gardens, most of which were inspected and found in good condition. Considerable activity in rubber and scrap iron salvage and collection of burlap sacks. Harney County 4-H members bought \$749.72 in war bonds, sold \$10,089.70 in bonds.

